

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /026 W
-----024107 081847Z /41 R
P R 081516Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4781
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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STADIS////////

FOR AF/W AND AF/EX FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID TO
SUBJ: PROPOSED AID REORGANIZATION-AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
JOHNSON'S CONSULTATIONS

REF: A LOME 2832 B NIAMEY 3782 C LOME 2666
D STATE 201062 E STATE 224147 F COTONOU 1263
G LOME 2869 H NIAMEY 3996

1. PROPOSED AID REORGANIZATION FOR LOME WILL BE MAJOR
CHANGE HERE. COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO STATE 201062 INDICATE
THAT PROPOSED CHANGES MAY INVOLVE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN
ONE SLOT EXPANSION PROPOSED BY AID WASHINGTON. SINCE NEW
DCM AND ECON OFFICER HAVE JUST ARRIVED AT POST, ADMIN OFFICER
IS OFF ON HOME LEAVE AND AIDOFF SCHEDULED FOR HOME LEAVE
AT END SEPTEMBER, THIS REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL COMES AT A
PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TIME.

'2. SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JOHNSON CONSULT
THOROUGHLY ON THIS MATTER WITH AID, AF/EX, AMBASSADOR PALMER,
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ON HOME LEAVE AND CONSULTATION AND
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WITH MODE.

3. TIMING-AID WASHINGTON PROPOSED THAT CHANGE IN
REORGANIZATION BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1. AIDOFF HERE
SAYS THAT ACTUAL PHASEOVER MAY TAKE FROM SEVERAL MONTHS TO
A YEAR. CABLES FROM WASHINGTON AND NIAMEY SEEM TO HAVE A
FAST MOVING TONE PROBABLY DUE TO DELAY OF ORIGINAL

WASHINGTON PROPOSAL UNTIL NEAR END OF FISCAL YEAR AND POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF THE INCUMBENT AID OFFICER. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AID WASHINGTON THERE SHOULD BE FULL UNDERSTANDING AS TO PACE OF PHASING NIAMEY FUNCTIONS OVER TO LOME AND ARRIVAL OF NEW AID PERSONNEL.

4. CONTINUITY-AIDOFF SALLY SHARP IS DUE TO LEAVE POST AT END OF SEPTEMBER ON HOME LEAVE AND RETURN ORDERS. SHE HAS TOLD US THAT SHE HAS REQUESTED ADJUSTMENT OF ORDERS FOR EITHER HOME LEAVE AND TRANSFER OR HOME LEAVE AND RETURN. SHE WILL NOT EXTEND FOR ANOTHER YEAR AS NUMBER 2 IN PROPOSED AID REORGANIZATION. SHE IS PREPARED TO STAY ON FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR IF THE REORGANIZED AID MISSION WILL NOT INVOLVE A PERSONNEL PHASE IN UNTIL THE LATTER HALF OF FY79. SHE IS WILLING TO HAVE OVERLAP AND TRANSFER AFTER HOME LEAVE, PRESUMABLY ON TDY ORDERS. SHE WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO EXTEND FOR A YEAR AS THE SENIOR MEMBER IN AN AID REORGANIZATION HERE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND AID WASHINGTON CONSIDERING MORE SENIOR OFFICER. WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH NIAMEY'S CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUITY OF AID OPERATIONS HERE. SUGGEST THAT THIS ISSUE BE EXPLORED FULLY WITH BOTH AMBASSADOR PALMER AND WITH AID WASHINGTON SINCE I HAVE KNOWN AID INCUMBENT ONLY THREE WEEKS.

5. TDY AID OFFICER-IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A TDY AID OFFICER DURING SALLY SHARP'S ABSENCE. WE HAVE CABLED A REQUEST TO AID NIAMEY. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVISABLE TO OBTAIN A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM AID WASHINGTON THAT A QUALIFIED TDY AIDOFF WILL BE ASSIGNED HERE FOR THE FULL DURATION OF MS SHARP'S ABSENCE FROM POST.

6. AID ACCOMODATIONS-WE GREATLY PREFER TO KEEP AID IN THE EMBASSY COMPOUND TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT AND CONTROL OVER AID OPERATIONS HERE. DEPENDING ON NEW NUMBER OF AID PERSONNEL APPROVED, HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE MAY BE A TIGHT FIT REQUIRING REMODELLING OF EXISTING OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE SPACE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH ADMIN OFFICER JOE WILSON, WHO IS PRESENTLY ON HOME LEAVE AND DUE FOR CONSULATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT. HIS ABSENCE, EVEN WITH TDY ADMIN OFFICER, MEANS SOME DELAY IN PREPARING FOR AID REORGANIZATION.

7. AID GSO-SUGGEST THAT DESIRABILITY OF AID GSO, HIS RANK AND RELATION TO JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION COULD BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED WITH AF/EX AND JOE WILSON AND THEN WITH AID. OUR ADMIN OFFICER RUNS A VERY EFFICIENT OPERATION AND HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT ADDITION OF AID GSO, BUT BOTH FORMER CHARGE AND I QUESTION ADVISABILITY OF HAVING ONLY ONE AMERICAN OFFICER IN ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION IN VIEW OF

EXPANDING AID ORGANIZATION AND EVENTUAL EXPANSION OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. WE ALSO NOTE THAT PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON APPARENTLY INTENDS TO CONVERT TWO DUAL NATIONAL FSL'S TO FSS OR FSR POSITIONS.

8. AID DIRECT HIRE AMERICAN SECRETARY-NIAMEY HAS RECOMMENDED AID DIRECT HIRE SECRETARY FOR PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF AID MISSION HERE. AIDOFF STATES THAT HER PRIMARY NEED IS FOR ADDITIONAL LOCALS, BUT AMERICAN SECRETARY USEFUL FOR FILING AND MAINTENANCE OF AID MANUALS WHICH LOCALS NOT WELL EQUIPPED TO DO. I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AMERICAN SECRETARY IN VIEW OF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPLORE THIS ISSUE WITH AID WASHINGTON.

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9. OVERALL AID PICTURE-PROPOSED REORGANIZATION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN LIGHT OF OVERALL AID INTENTIONS IN LOME. FOR EXAMPLE, APPROVAL OF PART OF FY80 ABS WILL REQUIRE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDY. IN GENERAL, MOST AID PROJECTS REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND MANPOWER FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. STATE 224147 RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT FY79 AND FY80 AID FUNDING FOR TOGO.

10. PLEASE ADVISE EXPECTED ETA AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JOHNSON IN WASHINGTON. DEPENDING ON HER ETA, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR AF/W TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE ISSUES WITH AMBASSADOR PALMER, AF/EX AND AID/AFR/SFWA OFFICE DIRECTOR. KIRKPATRICK

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